

This book will be most valuable to the practicing physician and will provide a quick brush-up on the details of management learned as a house officer, particularly of less common diseases. Even if there is not entire agreement with the recommended handling of all of the features of a particular illness, it will serve as a reminder and be a check on the physician's own program of management. Generally, he will also acquire some useful new information.

This book will be a useful addition to the clinician's library if he does not already have the first edition, which came out in 1964.

RODERIC H. PHIBBS, M.D.

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PRINCIPLES OF PATHOLOGY—Second Edition—Howard C. Hopps, M.D., Chief, Division of Geographic Pathology, The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, N.Y., 1964. 403 pages, \$8.95.

This volume is the second edition of *Principles of Pathology* first published by Hopps in 1959. According to the author, the book was written primarily for the undergraduate medical student and, as the title indicates, stresses basic concepts in pathology rather than detailed factual information. The approach is a classical one, beginning with circulatory disturbances and degenerative processes and proceeding through metabolic and nutritional disorders, inflammation, infection, regeneration and repair, and neoplasia. Rather than writing a synopsis of pathology, Hopps has emphasized causative mechanisms and broad concepts of the effects of disease. The style of the 12 chapters is lecture-like. The writing is clear and engagingly interesting. The illustrations are unusual in a book on pathology in that they consist of black-and-white line drawings, tables, diagrams, formulas, and graphs—the sort of visual material that good teachers often employ to illustrate their lectures. This book would not replace one of the standard textbooks of pathology for today's medical student, but ought to be useful to him in organizing his basic knowledge in the subject.

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BECK'S OBSTETRICAL PRACTICE—Eighth Edition—E. Stewart Taylor, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, Colorado. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1966. 658 pages, \$14.50.

E. Stewart Taylor has completely rewritten the eighth edition of Beck's famed textbook and, with his revision, has reduced the 1,115 pages of the seventh edition to 658 pages in the current one. Inasmuch as there are now 15 American textbooks of general obstetrics in print, each new book brings forth speculation as to which portion of the limited market each author hopes to appeal. Dr. Taylor has clearly set his sights on the medical student.

The book is well suited to the student beginning his obstetrical clerkship, for within the early portions of the book there is sufficient information to enable the student to intelligently participate in normal antenatal care and deliveries. The chapters "Chronologic development of pregnancy," "Changes in maternal organism," and "Multiple pregnancy" are superb for their organization, presentation of general principles, and relevance. The book is profusely illustrated, using much of the material from previous editions.

The author's tendency to mention all subjects, no matter how rare, leads in a book of this small size to somewhat superficial and dogmatic discussion in many areas. The comments on uterine inertia are particularly brief. It is also difficult to understand why in a book of this

type, so much space is given to topics such as version and inversion of the uterus. An additional topic that should be of great interest, but has been apparently deleted from all the current obstetric textbooks, would be a discussion of normal values of laboratory tests for each trimester of pregnancy and the postpartum period.

The portions of the book which should have widespread appeal are the bibliographies found at the end of each of the 49 chapters. These are current and well chosen, and by themselves are worth the price of the book. The book is highly recommended for all students of obstetrics, regardless of their state of training.

ROBERT C. GOODLIN, M.D.

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SYNOPSIS OF OBSTETRICS—Seventh Edition—Charles E. McLennan, M.D., Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, Calif. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1966. 471 pages, \$6.85.

The Synopsis has been used profitably by many generations of medical students and house officers. The Seventh Edition is another good one and should be of great help to students of the subject. The volume is decidedly readable and surprisingly broad in its coverage for a synopsis. Dr. McLennan again demonstrates a knack for positivism when the facts warrant it and caution when they do not. The volume is a fine guide to labor and delivery but also includes discussions of the many medical and surgical complications of pregnancy and of fetal and maternal physiology. The illustrations in the present edition have been up-dated from the old and are excellent. In point of fact this is almost the only major change from the prior edition; the chapter headings are identical, and in most cases the text is altered only in minor ways. This does not detract from the usefulness of the volume, however. It should serve as a valuable, quick reference for those who lack either the time or inclination to consult one of the larger texts.

LEO D. LAGASSE, M.D.

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PEDIATRIC ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY—Normal and Abnormal Patterns, Incorporating the Vector Approach—Warren G. Guntheroth, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle. Illustrated by the Author. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1965. 150 pages, \$7.00.

The author's stated purpose in this 138 page monograph is to provide an accurate but brief introduction to electrocardiography with emphasis on pediatric experience. He succeeds in doing just that.

In addition to the standard tables on the range of normal R, S, and R/S voltage ratios published by Ziegler in 1951 and Manning and Smiley in 1964, the author gives examples from 110 normal patients of all ages from his files, as well as illustrating the features of abnormal tracings from his files of patients with known cardiac lesions. The first half of the text is a review of electrophysiology summarizing general principles, lead systems, vector analysis, methods of recording and routine interpretation of the ECG and VCG. There follows a brief review of disorders of rate and rhythm and examples of the variations of the normal ECG at all ages with the normal evolution of the adult vector pattern.

Throughout the text specific examples are cited from patients with known anatomic lesions. Both the ECG and VCG taken with the Frank system are presented in each case and the component vector forces analyzed.

In the section on hypertrophy the author struggles against the loose use of such terms as hypertrophy, diastolic overload, pressure work and volume work as they